



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - December 10, 2003**

- ***In the West***, locally heavy precipitation in ***northern and central California*** is boosting high-elevation snow packs and aiding pastures and winter grains. Meanwhile in ***winter wheat areas of the Northwest***, where rain and snow showers are falling, winter wheat continues to benefit from recent soil moisture improvements.
- ***On the Plains***, unfavorably dry conditions persist across ***northern and southernmost portions of the region***, maintaining stress on the poorly established winter wheat crop. In contrast, winter wheat areas from parts of ***Oklahoma to eastern Nebraska*** are benefiting from the moisture and insulation provided by yesterday's snowfall, although local travel disruptions persist.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow and gusty winds are causing travel disruptions and stressing livestock from ***Missouri to the upper Mississippi Valley***. Meanwhile in the ***eastern Corn Belt***, locally heavy rain showers are maintaining adequate to locally excessive soil moisture for winter wheat.
- ***In the South***, snow is falling on the ***Ozark Plateau in southern Missouri***, while scattered showers and thunderstorms are sweeping across the ***Southeast***. Elsewhere, last evening's thunderstorms caused local wind damage in the ***Delta***.

**Outlook:** For the remainder of today, a strong winter storm will produce rain and snow in the ***Midwest***, while heavy rain falling on a deep snow pack may cause localized flooding in the ***Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern States***. Farther south, a cold front will trigger showers and thunderstorms in the ***Southeast***. Meanwhile, a pair of Pacific storm systems will maintain unsettled weather in the ***western half of the U.S.***, including light snow accompanying the first system in ***northern portions of the Rockies and Plains***. By week's end, the second, stronger storm will produce rain and mountain snow from the ***Southwest to central and southern portions of the Rockies and Plains***. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for December 15-19 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Atlantic Coast States***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected in the ***northern Plains and Southwest***. Above-normal temperatures will stretch across the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies***, while near- to below-normal temperatures are forecast for the remainder of the U.S.

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**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>